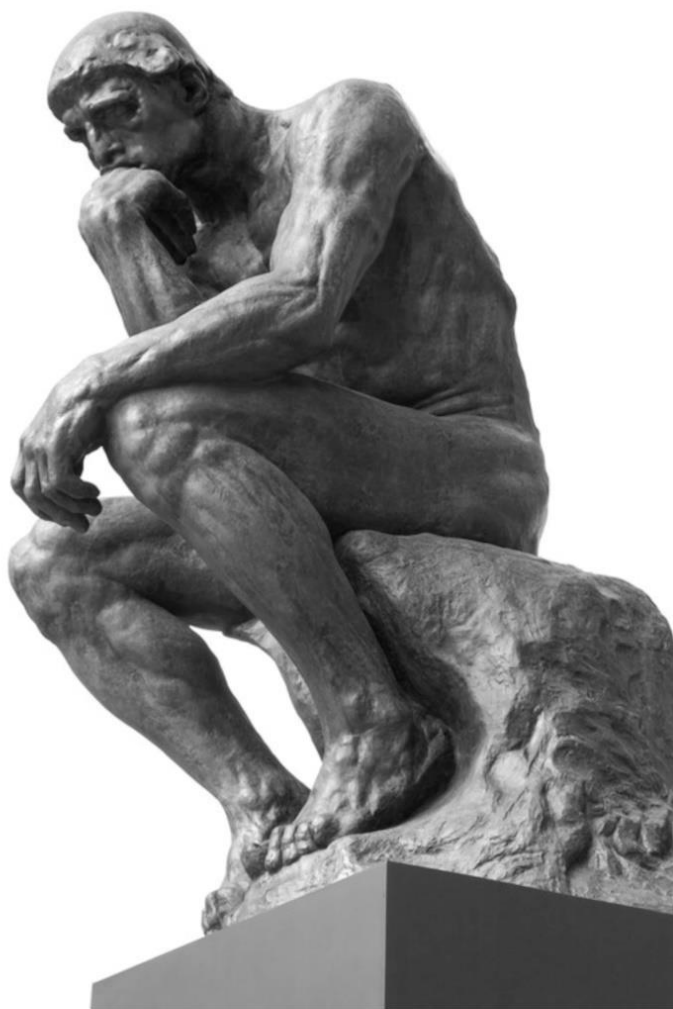


LOGICAL FALLACIES



DAVID MICHAEL CURTIS

Logical Fallacies

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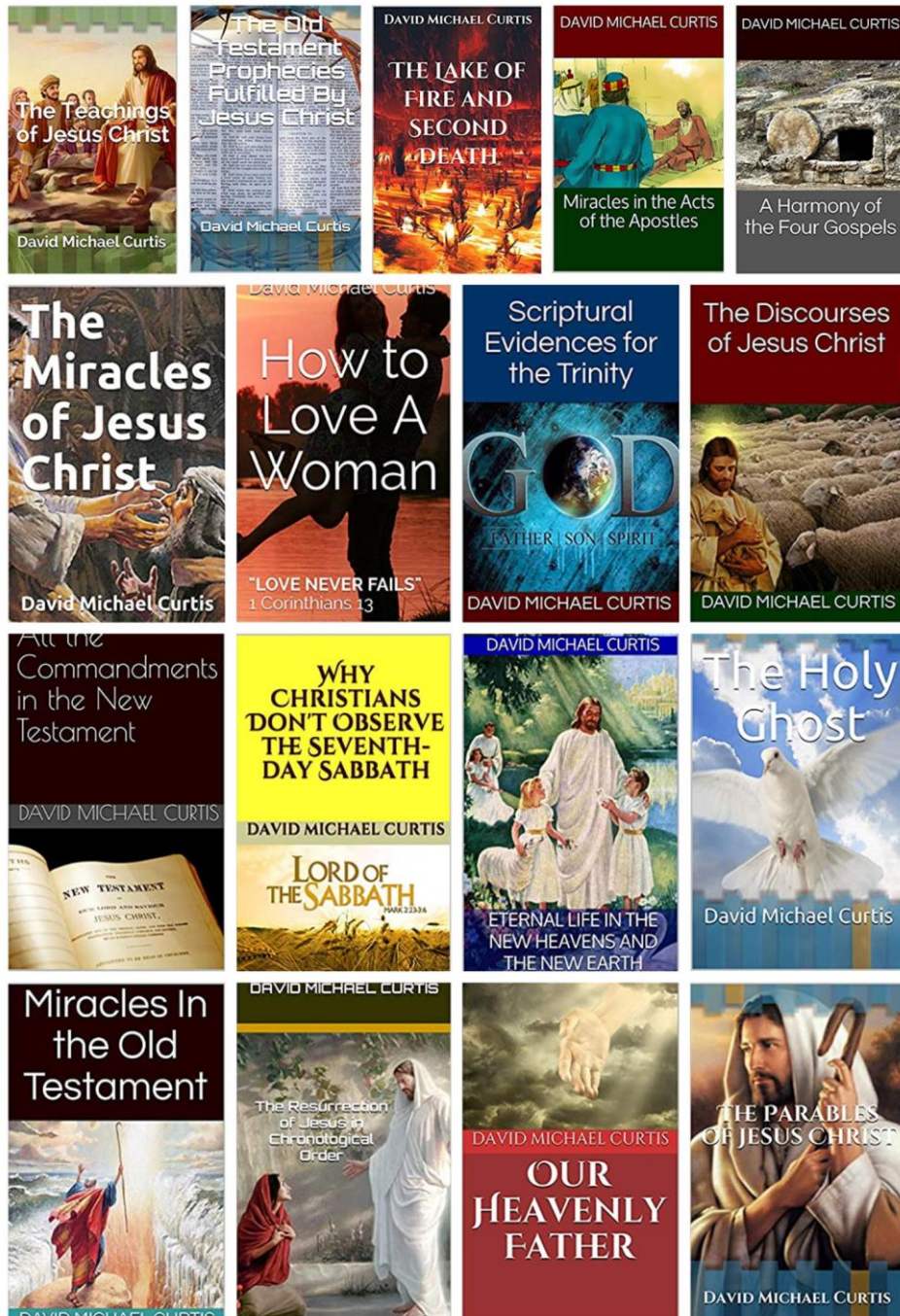
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Mainstream Christianity	Roman Catholicism
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About the Author,

David Michael Curtis (1974-Present)



I am a sinner saved by God's grace. I have been baptized, and I confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of my sins and the gift of eternal life.

I was born in Roseburg, Oregon. I became a Christian at age 19 in 1993. Over the next seven years, I wore out the bindings of eleven KJV Bibles. Using my own money, I conducted my first evangelistic crusade in 1999. I taught the Bible on the radio five days a week on K.O.R.E. Springfield, OR (2000-2002). I sold KJV Bibles and children's character-building books door to door in Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, Kansas, Georgia, Tennessee, and New York (1999-2007).

I was a volunteer chaplain for a maximum-security prison in Northern California (2005-2007).

Since 2001, I have owned/managed 75+ Christian websites. From 2008 to 2010, I was the General Manager for Harvestime Books (an international Christian publishing house). I have also served the church as an elder, a new believer's class teacher, and a vacation Bible school teacher.

A Helpful Illustration Describing this Topical Bible Study eBook

The tallest trees in the world are the Redwoods in Northern California. The Redwoods share a single network of roots; this root system connects **all** the Redwoods trees. This means the Redwoods Forest is also the largest single living organism in the world.

Imagine that each doctrine of the Bible is a giant Redwood tree supported by 30-40 roots (Bible verses). Examine the neighboring doctrines that share a root system (Bible verses) with that doctrine. Understand that under its surface, all the doctrines are connected by one massive root system within the Bible. My books *show how the various doctrines interconnect and share the same roots, supporting and depending on each other.*

My books use the Bible as its own interpreter, providing all the verses on whichever doctrine is being studied, topically arranged, without commentary. Christ is the only Teacher you need. He promised that you would know the truth, and the truth would set you free.

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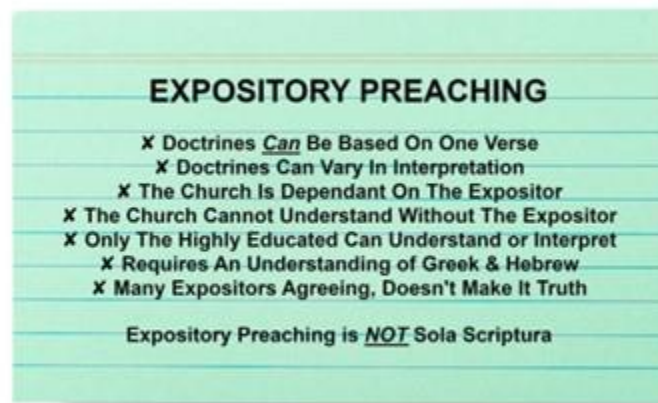
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Logical Fallacies Ministers Use in Sermons Preached from the Pulpit.

For many, 'Expository Preaching' is the best thing next to sliced bread. They affirm 'Expository Preaching' is not only the best way to study the Bible, but also the only way that the Bible should be studied and taught. More on 'Expository Preaching' in a moment, but first.

Walter Martin, the original 'Bible Answers Man' on the John Ankerberg Show, once said, "I hate philosophy. Why? Every philosophical worldview has another which debunks it. All philosophy is a huge waste of time." The denominational churches require that their ministers earn degrees from a Bible school and further require that they take Philosophy classes, which altars and influence how they view and teach the Bible.



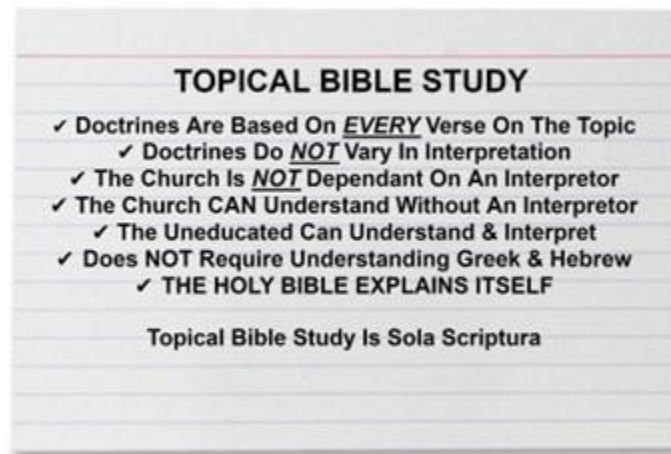
Ministers trained by a Bible university are taught expository preaching, a method of taking one verse as an island all to itself, breaking it down, and explaining it. This method insists on shackling a single verse in chains, averting our attention away from being aware that there are 30-40 related verses. Related verses delve into each topic and explain them in simple terms and in incredible detail.

Bible universities teach our ministers that comparing a key verse being examined in a sermon to the 30-40 related verses is a mistake. Thus, our churches are conditioned to trust in the speaker's intellect and eloquence rather than trusting the Bible to interpret itself.

Taking one verse

1. as an island all to itself
2. breaking it down, and
3. examining each detail
4. Explain it...

...Is the philosophical approach used by Plato. Expository preaching is a counterfeit method of Bible study that counters the genuine way to study the Bible, which is through **Topical Bible Study**. Expository preaching uses the prowess of the minister's intellect to interpret the Bible. On the other hand, **Topical Bible Study** does not require high training or intellect; rather, it requires all the verses in the Bible (usually 30-40) on the topic and a childlike mind that does not interpret them but rather believes what they say.



Most denominational churches use expository preaching as their primary method, yet expository preaching has failed to unite Christianity. Why? Expository preaching is subjective and can be twisted into a thousand streams based on the preacher's biases and how his Bible school indoctrinated him. These thousand streams account for the divisions among the thousands of church denominations that now exist in Christianity. **All of this division can be traced back to the expository preaching method.**

Humans, especially the worldly wise, are highly susceptible to using logical fallacies in their thinking, teaching, and preaching. This book offers a small sample of the logical fallacies that your minister might employ during his expository preaching as he interprets the scriptures and explains how he wants you view the Bible and interpret it.

Using a man as a filter between you and the Holy Bible is dangerous. In assembling this short list of logical fallacies, I aim to encourage you to heed Proverbs 3, no longer trust your minister's mind, and read the Bible directly for yourself, setting aside all the mental acrobats your minister may have placed on the Bible through his expository preaching. I encourage you to lay down the wisdom and interpretations of wise men, read the Bible for yourself, and believe what it says.

Sincerely,

David Michael Curtis

Logical Fallacies.

Ad Hominem Fallacy

Ad hominem fallacy, also known simply as ad hominem, is a common logical fallacy in which an individual attempts to discredit someone's argument by personally attacking them. Instead of addressing the argument itself, criticism is directed toward the opponent's character, which is irrelevant to the discussion.

Hasty Generalization Fallacy

The Hasty Generalization Fallacy, also known as the overgeneralization fallacy, occurs when someone makes a claim based on a sample size far too small to support that claim.

Red Herring Fallacy

The Red Herring Fallacy, also known as the overgeneralization fallacy, occurs when someone makes a claim based on a sample size far too small to support that claim.

Tu QuoQue Fallacy

The Tu Quoque Fallacy, also known as the appeal to hypocrisy, is an argumentative fallacy wherein a person attempts to discredit an opponent's argument by pointing out the opponent's inconsistency or hypocrisy. Instead of addressing the argument's validity, the focus shifts to the opponent's past actions or choices.

Slippery Slope Fallacy

The Slippery Slope Fallacy is a logical fallacy that claims one event or action will lead to another, more extreme event or action, without offering any evidence to substantiate the claim.

Special Pleading Fallacy

The Special Pleading Fallacy is an informal fallacy where someone cites something as an exception to a general or universal principle without justifying that special exception. It's essentially applying a double standard.

Loaded Question Fallacy

The Loaded Question Fallacy, also known as the complex question fallacy, is a deceptive tactic used in conversations and debates.

False Dilemma Fallacy

The False Dilemma Fallacy, also known as the either/or fallacy, is an informal fallacy that misrepresents an issue by presenting only two mutually exclusive options instead of the full range of nuanced possibilities.

Strawman Fallacy

The Straw Man Fallacy, sometimes written as strawman, is an informal fallacy of refuting an argument different from the one actually under discussion, while not recognizing or acknowledging the distinction.

Circular Reasoning Fallacy

The Circular Reasoning Fallacy, also known as the circular argument, is a logical fallacy where an argument assumes the very thing it is trying to prove is true. Instead of offering evidence, it simply repeats the conclusion, rendering the argument logically incoherent.

Appeal to Authority Fallacy

The Appeal to Authority Fallacy, also known as the appeal to false authority, occurs when someone claims a statement is true simply because an authority figure made it.

Appeal to Nature Fallacy

The Appeal to Nature Fallacy occurs when something is claimed to be good because it's perceived as natural, or bad because it's perceived as unnatural.

Composition Fallacy

The fallacy of composition is an informal logical error that occurs when one mistakenly infers that something true about a part of a whole must also be true about the entire entity.

Division Fallacy

The fallacy of division is an informal logical error that occurs when one assumes that something true about a whole must also necessarily be true of its individual parts.

Affirming the Consequent Fallacy

The fallacy of affirming the consequent is a common logical error that occurs when someone incorrectly assumes that if an outcome is true, then a specific cause must also be true.

Anecdotal Fallacy

The anecdotal fallacy is an informal logical error that occurs when someone relies on personal experiences or individual cases as evidence for a general claim, overlooking larger and more reliable data.

Appeal to Emotion Fallacy

The appeal to emotion fallacy occurs when someone tries to convince another person by evoking their feelings rather than providing evidence. In this fallacy, people accept a claim as true because they react emotionally to it, focusing on factors irrelevant to the question at hand and ignoring facts and logical reasoning.

Burden of Proof Fallacy

The burden of proof fallacy occurs when someone who is making a claim puts the responsibility of proving or disproving that claim on another party. Instead of providing evidence to support their own position, they shift the burden of proof to someone else.

No True Scotsman Fallacy

The No True Scotsman Fallacy, also known as the appeal to purity, is an informal fallacy where someone attempts to protect a generalized statement from being disproven by excluding a counterexample improperly. Instead of abandoning the falsified universal claim or providing evidence that would disqualify the counterexample, they construct a slightly modified generalization that definitionally excludes the undesirable specific case and similar counterexamples. This modification is often done through emotionally charged but nonsubstantive purity platitudes such as “true,” “pure,” “genuine,” or “authentic” .

Texas Sharpshooter Fallacy

The Texas Sharpshooter Fallacy is an informal fallacy that occurs when differences in data are ignored, but similarities are overemphasized. From this reasoning, a false conclusion is inferred.

Suppressed Correlative Fallacy

The Suppressed Correlative Fallacy, also known as the fallacy of lost contrast or the fallacy of the suppressed relative, occurs when an argument attempts to redefine a correlative (one of two mutually exclusive options) in a way that makes one alternative encompass the other, effectively rendering the latter impossible.

Personal Incredulity Fallacy

The Personal Incredulity Fallacy occurs when someone dismisses a claim without providing evidence or logical reasoning to support their disbelief. It often happens when an individual finds a concept so unbelievable that they don't feel the need to investigate it further.

Ambiguity Fallacy

The Ambiguity Fallacy is a logical fallacy that occurs when an argument relies on an ambiguous term or phrase.

Genetic Fallacy

The genetic fallacy (also known as the fallacy of origins or fallacy of virtue) is a fallacy of irrelevance. It occurs when arguments or information are dismissed or validated based solely on their source of origin, rather than their content. In other words, a claim is ignored or given credibility based on its source rather than the claim itself.

Middle-Ground Fallacy

The Middle Ground Fallacy, also known as the False Compromise, occurs when an individual's argument is based on the assumption that a compromise between two opposing views is the only valid solution.

Affirming the Disjunct Fallacy

The Affirming the Disjunct Fallacy occurs when a deductive argument takes the following logical form:

1. We have a disjunction: A or B.
2. We affirm the first disjunct: A.
3. Therefore, we conclude that the second disjunct must be false: not B.

Appeal to Tradition Fallacy

The Appeal to Tradition Fallacy occurs when someone claims that if something is old or has been done a certain way for a long time, it must be good or correct. Essentially, they argue that familiarity or tradition alone validates an idea or practice, without considering its intrinsic merits or relevance to the current context.

Sunk Cost Fallacy

The sunk cost fallacy is a cognitive trap that leads people to persist with an endeavor or course of action even when abandoning it would be more beneficial. We fall into this fallacy because we feel that we have already invested too much to quit, and quitting would render our past efforts futile. Essentially, we make irrational decisions based on the resources we've already committed, even if the costs now outweigh the benefits.

Appeal to Ignorance Fallacy

The Appeal to Ignorance Fallacy, also known as the argument from ignorance, occurs when someone argues that a claim is true simply because it has not been proven false, or vice versa. This type of faulty reasoning can trap even the sharpest minds, misleading us into believing things without proper evidence.

Continuum Fallacy

The Continuum Fallacy, also known as the fallacy of the beard, line-drawing fallacy, or decision-point fallacy, is an informal fallacy related to the sorites paradox. Both fallacies cause one to erroneously reject a vague claim simply because it is not as precise as one would like it to be.

Equivocation Fallacy

The Equivocation Fallacy, also known as the fallacy of the beard, occurs when a particular word or expression is used in multiple senses within an argument. This ambiguity arises from a phrase having two or more distinct meanings, not from the grammar or structure of the sentence.

Faulty Analogy Fallacy

The Faulty Analogy Fallacy occurs when an argument relies on an analogy that is inappropriate or misleading. It assumes that because two things are similar in one aspect, they must be similar in other respects as well. However, this assumption is often flawed and can lead to erroneous conclusions.

Denying the Antecedent Fallacy

The Denying the Antecedent Fallacy is a logical error that occurs when someone incorrectly assumes that if the antecedent (the "if" part) of a conditional statement is false, then the consequent (the "then" part) must also be false. It is a form of invalid reasoning.

False Cause Fallacy

The False Cause Fallacy, also known as the Post Hoc Fallacy, occurs when someone mistakenly assumes that because one event follows another, the first event must have caused the second. In other words, they attribute causality based on mere temporal sequence without considering other factors.

Definist Fallacy

The Definist Fallacy, also known as the Socratic Fallacy, was identified by William Frankena in 1939. It involves defining a term in a way that is favorable to one's own side of an argument, without allowing room for questioning the definition or considering alternatives.

Ecological Fallacy

The Ecological Fallacy, also known as the Population Fallacy, is a formal fallacy in the interpretation of statistical data. It occurs when inferences about the individuals are deduced from inferences about the group to which those individuals belong.

Etymological Fallacy

The Etymological Fallacy occurs when someone argues that a word's true or proper meaning is its oldest or original definition based on its etymology. This fallacy assumes that the contemporary usage of a word should align with its historical roots, disregarding the natural evolution of language over time.

Quoting out of Context Fallacy

The Quoting out of Context Fallacy, also known as contextomy or quote mining, is an informal fallacy where a passage is removed from its surrounding context in a way that distorts its intended meaning. This fallacy occurs when context is omitted intentionally or accidentally, leading to misrepresentation.

False Equivalence Fallacy

The False Equivalence Fallacy, also known as false equivalency, occurs when an equivalence is drawn between two subjects based on flawed or false reasoning. It's categorized as a fallacy of inconsistency. Colloquially, it's often referred to as "comparing apples and oranges".

Historian's Fallacy

The Historian's Fallacy is an informal fallacy that occurs when one assumes that decision makers of the past viewed events from the same perspective and had the same information as those

subsequently analyzing the decision. It is not to be confused with presentism, a similar but distinct mode of historical analysis in which present-day ideas (such as moral standards) are projected into the past. The concept was first articulated by British literary critic Matthew Arnold in 1880 and later named and defined by American historian David Hackett Fischer in 1970.

Inflation of Conflict Fallacy

The Inflation of Conflict Fallacy, also known as the false dilemma, occurs when someone assumes that there are only two possible solutions to a problem, even when more options exist. This fallacy is often used to create a false sense of urgency or to manipulate others into agreeing with a particular solution.

Incomplete Comparison Fallacy

The Incomplete Comparison Fallacy occurs when two objects are compared, but critical aspects of the comparison are left out, leading to an inaccurate or misleading conclusion.

Ludic Fallacy

The Ludic Fallacy, proposed by Nassim Nicholas Taleb in his book *The Black Swan* (2007), refers to “the misuse of games to model real-life situations.” The term “ludic” originates from the Latin word “ludus,” meaning “play, game, sport, pastime”.

Moralistic Fallacy

The Moralistic Fallacy is an informal fallacy that arises when someone assumes that an aspect of nature with socially unpleasant consequences cannot exist.

Nirvana Fallacy

The Nirvana Fallacy is an informal fallacy that occurs when someone compares actual things with unrealistic, idealized alternatives. It can also refer to the tendency to assume there is a perfect solution to a particular problem.

Proof by Assertion Fallacy

Proof by assertion, sometimes informally referred to as proof by repeated assertion, is an informal fallacy in which a proposition is repeatedly restated regardless of contradiction and refutation. The proponent asserts the proposition as fact, often relying on the lack of challengers (a variant of argumentum ad nauseam). In some cases, the repetition itself is cited as evidence of its truth, resembling the appeal to authority or appeal to belief fallacies. This fallacy is sometimes used as

a form of rhetoric by politicians or during debates as a filibuster. In its extreme form, it can even resemble a form of brainwashing.

Cherry Picking Fallacy

The Cherry Picking Fallacy, also known as the fallacy of incomplete evidence, occurs when someone selectively presents individual cases or data that seem to confirm a particular position while ignoring a significant portion of related and similar cases or data that may contradict that position.

Psychologist's Fallacy

The Psychologist's Fallacy is an informal fallacy that occurs when an observer assumes that their subjective experience reflects the true nature of an event. In other words, they mistakenly believe that their personal viewpoint accurately represents objective reality. This fallacy was named by William James in the 19th century. James warned against the confusion of the observer's standpoint with the mental fact being studied, coining it the "psychologist's fallacy" par excellence.

Reification Fallacy

The Reification Fallacy, also known as concretism, hypostatization, or the fallacy of misplaced concreteness, occurs when an abstraction (such as an abstract belief or hypothetical construct) is treated as if it were a concrete real event or physical entity. In other words, it is the error of treating something that is not concrete, such as an idea, as a concrete thing.

Retrospective Determinism Fallacy

The Retrospective Determinism Fallacy is an informal fallacy that occurs when someone assumes that because something happened under certain circumstances, it was therefore bound to happen due to those circumstances. The term was coined by the French philosopher Henri Bergson.

Thought Terminating Cliché Fallacy

The Thought-terminating cliché (also known as a semantic stop-sign, thought-stopper, bumper sticker logic, or cliché thinking) is a form of loaded language often disguised as folk wisdom. Its purpose is to end an argument and quell cognitive dissonance by providing a seemingly conclusive statement. Here are some key points about this fallacy:

Fallacy of the single cause

The Fallacy of the Single Cause, also known as complex cause, causal oversimplification, or reduction fallacy, is an informal fallacy that occurs when someone assumes that there is a single, simple cause of an outcome when, in reality, it may have been caused by a number of jointly sufficient causes.

Appeal to the Stone Fallacy

The Appeal to the Stone Fallacy, also known as argumentum ad lapidem, is a logical fallacy that dismisses an argument as untrue or absurd. The dismissal is made by stating or reiterating that the argument is absurd, without providing further argumentation.

Ignoratio Elenchi Fallacy

The Ignoratio Elenchi Fallacy, also known as the irrelevant conclusion or missing the point, is an informal fallacy of presenting an argument that may or may not be logically valid and sound, but fails to address the issue in question. It occurs when someone responds to a question or statement by providing an argument that does not directly relate to the original issue.

Circumstantial ad Hominem Fallacy

The Circumstantial ad Hominem Fallacy is an informal fallacy that occurs when someone dismisses an argument or viewpoint based on the circumstances or characteristics of the person making the argument, rather than addressing the argument itself.

Tone Policing Fallacy

The Tone Policing Fallacy, also known as tone trolling, occurs when someone dismisses an argument or viewpoint based on the tone in which it is expressed, rather than addressing the substance of the argument itself.

Association Fallacy

The association fallacy, also known as guilt by association, is a logical fallacy that occurs when someone asserts that properties of one thing must also apply to another simply because both things belong to the same group.

Appeal to Accomplishment Fallacy

The appeal to accomplishment fallacy, also known as the appeal to success, occurs when an argument is shielded from criticism based on the level of accomplishment of the person making

the argument. It can also manifest when arguments are evaluated based on the accomplishments or success of the individual presenting them, rather than on the merits of the argument itself.

Courtier's Reply Fallacy

The Courtier's Reply Fallacy, coined by American biologist PZ Myers, occurs when someone responds to criticism by claiming that the critic lacks sufficient knowledge, credentials, or training to pose any valid criticism whatsoever.

Appeal to Consequences Fallacy

The appeal to consequences fallacy, also known as the argumentum ad consequentiam, is a logical fallacy that concludes a hypothesis (typically a belief) to be either true or false based on whether the premise leads to desirable or undesirable consequences.

Appeal to Novelty Fallacy

The appeal to novelty fallacy, also known as the argumentum ad novitatem, occurs when someone prematurely claims that an idea or proposal is correct or superior solely because it is new and modern. Let's delve into this fallacy:

Bulverism Fallacy

Bulverism is a type of ad hominem rhetorical fallacy that combines circular reasoning and the genetic fallacy with presumption or condescension. Here's how it works:

1. The Bulverist assumes a speaker's argument is invalid or false.
2. The Bulverist then explains why the speaker came to make that mistake or to be so silly (even if the opponent's claim is actually right).
3. This explanation often involves attacking the speaker or the speaker's motive.
4. The key flaw is that the Bulverist fails to address the argument's validity or truth, focusing instead on irrelevant factors such as the speaker's identity or presumed motives.

Chronological Snobbery Fallacy

Chronological snobbery is an argument that the thinking, art, or science of an earlier time is inherently inferior to that of the present, simply by virtue of its temporal priority or the belief that since civilization has advanced in certain areas, people of earlier periods were less intelligent.

Entitled to my Opinion Fallacy

The "I'm entitled to my opinion" assertion is an informal fallacy where someone dismisses arguments against their position by claiming they have a right to hold their own viewpoint.

Two Wrongs Make a Right Fallacy

The “two wrongs make a right” fallacy occurs when wrongs committed by one party are used to excuse wrongs committed by another. If someone asserts that an action is justified because the other party did the same action, they are committing this fallacy. Essentially, it’s a red herring—a distraction from the issue at hand. The fallacy implies that if one wrong occurs, another wrong will cancel it out, which is logically flawed. The proverb “two wrongs don’t make a right” rebukes wrongful conduct as a response to another’s transgression.

Vacuous Truth Fallacy

The vacuous truth fallacy occurs when a conditional or universal statement is true because the antecedent (condition) cannot be satisfied. In other words, the statement is true because it doesn’t really say anything meaningful.

Fallacy Fallacy

The fallacy fallacy, also known as the argument from fallacy, is a logical fallacy that occurs when someone assumes that if an argument contains a logical fallacy, then its conclusion must be false. In other words, just because an argument is flawed doesn’t necessarily mean its conclusion is incorrect.